

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 00997 191920Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W
-----200523Z 101050 /14

R 191802Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9657
INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 00997

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PDEV, UK
SUBJECT: DEVOLUTION: ANOTHER TORY WRECKING
EFFORT DEFEATED

REF: LONDON 716

1. THE GOVERNMENT JANUARY 18 SUCCESSFULLY BEAT BACK A MAJOR CONSERVATIVE EFFORT TO WRECK THE SCOTLAND AND WALES BILL, DEFEATING AN AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE EXCLUDED WALES, BY A 24 VOTE MARGIN (287 TO 263). UNLIKE LAST WEEK'S EFFORT TO EXCLUDE SCOTLAND (REFTEL), THIS AMENDMENT WAS SPONSORED BY THE CONSERVATIVE FRONT-BENCH AND BACKED BY A THREE LINE MAXIMUM DISCIPLINE) WHIP.

2. FOUR LABOR MPS (DALYELL, CUNNINGHAM, MOONMAN AND PHIPPS) DEFIED A GOVERNMENT THREE LINE WHIP TO VOTE WITH THE CONSERVATIVES, WHILE SEVERAL OTHERS ABSTAINED. APPARENTLY NO TORY MPS VOTED AGAINST THEIR PARTY (FORMER PM HEATH FOLLOWED THE WHIP), BUT SEVERAL MAY HAVE ABSTAINED. AS A RESULT, THE LIBERAL AND NATIONALIST PARTIES CARRIED THE GOVERNMENT TO VICTORY.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 00997 191920Z

3. ON A RELATED PROCEDURAL ISSUE, THE COMMONS SITTING AS A COMMITTEE EARLIER VOTED TO END DEBATE ON THIS AMENDMENT BY 277 TO 26.

4. COMMENT: THIS WAS A KEY VOTE, AS THIS AMENDMENT MAY HAVE REPRESENTED THE ANTI-DEVOLUTIONISTS' BEST

CHANCE TO WRECK THE BILL. TO CARRY IT, THE TORIES
NEEDED THE SUPPORT OF AT LEAST 17 ANTI-DEVOLUTION
LABOR MPS FROM WALES AND ENGLAND, AND THEY GOT ONLY
FOUR. OTHER LABOR ANTI-DEVOLUTIONISTS SUPPORTED THE
GOVERNMENT OR ABSTAINED BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S
EARLIER COMMITMENT TO HOLD BINDING REFERENDA ON THE
DEVOLUTION BILL IN SCOTLAND AND WALES. WHILE OTHER
AMENDMENTS MAY BE APPROVED, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY
WITH THE WRECKING POTENTIAL OF THIS ONE STAND MUCH OF
A CHANCE. THIS, OF COURSE, IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE
FINAL VERSION OF THE BILL WILL BE APPROVED. THE VOTE
TO END DEBATE ALSO PROVIDED SOME COMFORT FOR THE
GOVERNMENT, SINCE IT DEMONSTRATED THAT COMMONS IS
PREPARED TO PLACE SOME LIMITS ON DISCUSSION. WITH
OVER 500 AMENDMENTS NOW TABLED, HOWEVER, IT STILL
REMAINS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE BILL CAN BE PASSED
IN THIS PARLIAMENT WITHOUT A TIMETABLE MOTION.

ARMSTRONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, LEGISLATIVE BILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON00997
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770020-1212
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770137/aaaabgqx.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e7eba2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LONDON 716
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3560576
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEVOLUTION: ANOTHER TORY WRECKING EFFORT DEFEATED
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PDEV, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e7eba2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009